

Lesson 27

Words To Learn This Week

despite
disrupt
rash
rapid
exhaust
severity
feeble
unite
cease
thrifty
miserly
monarch

"My words fly up, my thoughts remain below:
Words without thoughts never to heaven go."

—Shakespeare, *Hamlet*

1. **despite** (di spīt') in spite of
 - a. The player continued in the game **despite** his injuries.
 - b. **Despite** his size, Ted put up a good fight.
 - c. We won the game by a shutout **despite** the fact that our team got only three hits.
2. **disrupt** (dis rupt') upset; cause to break down
 - a. Pam's clowning **disrupted** the class every day.
 - b. The storm **disrupted** the telephone lines throughout the area.
 - c. The collapse* of the government **disrupted** the services we took for granted, such as mail delivery.
3. **rash** (rash) a breaking out with many small red spots on the skin; outbreak of many instances within a short time: too hasty or careless
 - a. The report of a **rash** of burglaries in the neighborhood was exaggerated.*
 - b. Poison ivy causes a **rash**.
 - c. It is **rash** to threaten an action you cannot carry out.
4. **rapid** (ra' pid) very quick; swift
 - a. We took a **rapid** walk around the camp before breakfast.
 - b. If you work **rapidly** you can complete the test in twenty minutes.
 - c. The response* to the surprise attack was a **rapid** retreat.
5. **exhaust** (ig zōst') empty completely; use up; tire out
 - a. To **exhaust** the city's water supply would be a calamity.*
 - b. The long climb to the top of the mountain **exhausted** our strength.
 - c. If we continue to squander* our money recklessly,* our treasury will soon be **exhausted**.
6. **severity** (sə ver' ə tē) strictness; harshness; plainness; violence
 - a. The **severity** of the teacher was not appreciated by the pupils until they reached the final examinations
 - b. The **severity** of the Black Plague can be imagined from the fact that thirty percent of the population* died.
 - c. Rosita complained to the principal about the **severity** of the punishment that the Student Court gave to her.
7. **feeble** (fē' bl) weak
 - a. We heard a **feeble** cry from the exhausted* child.
 - b. The guide* made a **feeble** attempt to explain why he had taken the wrong turn.
 - c. The **feeble** old man collapsed* on the sidewalk.
8. **unite** (yū nīt') join together; become one
 - a. The thirteen colonies **united** to form one country.
 - b. Matrimony* **united** two famous Virginia families.
 - c. America and Russia were **united** against a common enemy in World War II.
9. **cease** (sēs) stop
 - a. **Cease** trying to do more than you can.
 - b. The whispering in the audience **ceased** when the curtain went up.
 - c. When you **cease** making war, you can then begin to pacify* the small villages the enemy controls.
10. **thrifty** (thrif' tē) saving; careful in spending; thriving
 - a. By being **thrifty**, Miss Benson managed to get along on her small income.

- b. A **thrifty** person knows that squandering* money can lead to financial* calamity.*
 - c. By **thrifty** use of their supplies, the shipwrecked sailors were able to survive* for weeks.
11. **miserly** (mī' zər lē) stingy; like a miser
- a. Being **miserly** with our natural resources will help us to live longer on this earth.
 - b. A **miserly** person rarely* has any friends.
 - c. Silas Marner abandoned* his **miserly** habits when Eppie came into his life.
12. **monarch** (män' ərk) king or queen; ruler
- a. There are few modern nations that are governed by **monarchs**.
 - b. The **monarchs** of ancient Rome considered themselves descendants* of the gods.
 - c. Men sometimes believe that they are **monarchs** in their own homes.

Read the following passage to see how the new words are used in it.

Problems We Face

Despite wars, disease, and natural disasters,* our world is experiencing a population explosion (boom) that threatens* to change or **disrupt** life as we have known it. Vast* numbers of people must be fed and housed, and in the process a whole **rash** of problems has descended* upon the human race.

First has been the pollution* of the air and the contamination* of the water supply. Second has been the **rapid exhaustion** of fuels, minerals, and other natural resources. The response* to this situation has ranged from utter* disbelief to exaggerated* concern.

Since scientists themselves disagree on the **severity** of

the problem, our **feeble** knowledge is surely unable to suggest the correct course of action. But we cannot stand still because there is too much at stake. We are, therefore, compelled* to **unite** in our efforts to insure that human life on this planet does not **cease**. We must learn to be **thrifty**, even **miserly**, with the gifts of nature that we have formerly taken for granted. If our past reveals* a reckless* squandering* of our natural possessions, we must now find an intelligent guide* to their use so that we may remain **monarchs** of a world that has peace and plenty.

Which of the words studied in this lesson is suggested by the picture?

